



GGA-WARO ELECTION WATCH 2020



THE WOMAN FACTOR – ELECTIONS AND GENDER ISSUES.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AFRICA



2020 Presidential Candidates (Women)

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Representation in participation matters. To many, this is the major reason for the campaign to have the marginalized and the excluded purposively brought forward in all discourse and discussion. Representation should not be tokenistic. Representation should be empowering. In the matters of women participation and women representation, it is a safe to say that some considerable progress has been made globally. The UN Women presents that, “(a) only 24.3 per cent of all national parliamentarians were women as of February 2019, a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995; (b) as of June 2019, 11 women are serving as Head of State and 12 are serving as Head of Government; (c) Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide, where, women have won 61.3 per cent of seats in the lower house; and (d) globally, there are 27 States in which women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, as of February 2019, including 3 chambers with no women at all”(UN Women, 2020). The important lesson from these facts is that, although women make up 49.5% of the world’s 7.674 billion population in 2019 , this is not even close to commiserating with the percentage of women in political leadership positions across the board in the world.

In Ghana, the cultural prescriptions on the role of the woman has been cited severally albeit loosely to

be the reason for the lack of women representation and participation in our body politic. The notion that politics is a “dirty-job” has for long been the excuse for excluding women in political leadership roles. It is therefore not surprising that, in the 4th republic, the first woman Presidential Aspirant was Nana Konadu Agyemang Rawlings. This came in the 2016 Presidential Elections, 24 years into the 4th Republic. Prior to this, women had been selected as Running Mates in prior Presidential Elections. In the 2012 Presidential Elections, 3 women were selected as running mates , reducing to 1 in the 2016 Presidential Election . These perhaps were precursors of bigger things to come. Some have argued that the selection of Prof Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang as the running mate of the National Democratic Congress (Ghana’s largest and perhaps most influential opposition party) Presidential Candidate is the ceiling breaking moment, as the earlier aspirants were all from minor political parties. To this I say, representation matters, and participation is important. The 2020 Presidential Election will have Brigitte Dzogbenuku of the Progressive People’s Party; Akua Donkor of the Ghana Freedom Party and Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings of National Democratic Party vying for the Presidential position in the country. This is 25% out of the 12 presidential aspirants, and perhaps is not a fair representation of the 49.32% women population in Ghana as at 2019 .

Although respective political parties may have their criteria for the selection of candidates, either as presidential or vice-presidential candidates, it can safely be postulated that, the selection of women among many other reasons speaks to the quality of women human capital built up in the country over the years. It resonates with the idea that; women

are equally able and capacitated to contribute to the nation building agenda at the highest level. It is worthy to mention that, over the last five years, Ghana have had 2 female Chief Justices and 1 Female Speaker of Parliament. Perhaps, the seeds of greater representation are being sown, and soon, we may bountifully harvest.



Summary Table

Year	Presidential	Political Party	Remark
2016	Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings	National Democratic Party	1st Woman to run as a Presidential Candidate
2020	1. Brigitte Dzogbenuku	Progressive People's Party	1st Time 3 Women are running as Presidential Candidates in an election
	2. Akua Donkor	Ghana Freedom Party	
	3. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings	National Democratic Party	
Vice Presidential Candidates			
2020	Prof Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang	National Democratic Congress	1st Woman Running Mate for the NDC in the 4th Republic
2020	Margaret Obrine Sarfo	Liberal Party of Ghana	
2016	Brigitte Dzogbenuku	Progressive People's Party	
2012	Helen Sanorita Dzatugbe Matrevi	People's National Convention	
	Eva Naa Merley Lokko	Progressive People's Party	
	Nana Akosua Frimpong-maa	Convention People's Party	